

Planning for Food Justice

A Summary of Gilroy’s Implementation of *Senate Bill 1000: The Planning for Healthy Communities Act*

Gilroy, CA | March 21, 2024

What is SB 1000?

- Senate Bill 1000, enacted in 2016, requires cities and counties with “disadvantaged communities,” or DACs (as defined by CalEPA) to incorporate Environmental Justice (EJ) into their General Plans, either as a standalone EJ element or as goals throughout the plan.
- Land use planning has historically perpetuated inequalities that disproportionately expose communities of color to environmental hazards and limit their access to healthy food.
- SB 1000 aims to reverse this trend by integrating policies into the planning process that address the specific needs of DACs.

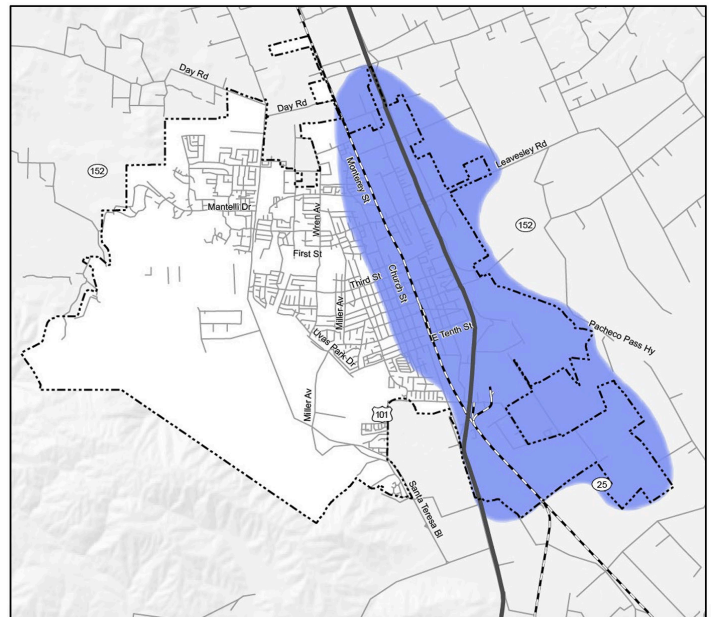
Goals of SB 1000

1	Reduce Pollution Exposure
2	Promote Public Facilities
3	Promote Food Access
4	Promote Safe and Sanitary Homes
5	Promote Physical Activity
6	Promote Community Engagement
7	Prioritize Programs that Address DACs Needs
8	Equitable Development and Design
9	Reduce Climate Change Impacts

Gilroy’s Approach

- CalEPA’s CalEnviroScreen tool identified two census tracts in Gilroy as “disadvantaged communities,” based on various health and environmental indicators.
- Surrounding these two tracts, the City of Gilroy created its **Equity and Engagement District** (right). Many of the goals in Gilroy’s EJ element are focused on neighborhoods within this district.
- During the planning process, the city worked with a consulting firm to organize workshops and focus groups. Community organization Nueva Vida led outreach efforts to gather insight from Gilroy’s Latinx residents.
- **Gilroy adopted its EJ element in November 2020** — one of the first cities to adopt an EJ element after SB 1000 went into effect.

Gilroy’s Equity and Engagement District



Goals in Gilroy's Environmental Justice Element

Goal EJ 1 To encourage involvement of all Gilroy neighborhoods in the public decision-making process.

Goal EJ 2 To improve access to healthy foods, health services, and resources to enhance quality of life. Access to health care and healthy foods is a critical component of community health. Policies in this section address accessibility to mental health services, health and wellness education, as well as support to local food vendors to provide healthy foods to their customers.

EJ 2.1 Supply Healthy Foods: Encourage the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department to assist local vendors such as markets and convenience stores in supplying fresh produce for their customers.

EJ 2.2 Economic Incentives: Explore opportunities for the creation of economic incentives for local retail vendors to bring healthy foods to underserved areas.

EJ 2.3 Farmer's Markets: Encourage and facilitate the establishment of one or more farmer's markets in Gilroy.

EJ 2.4 Accept EBT Payments at Farmer's Markets: Work with Farmer's Market vendors to accept payment through Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), which allows residents in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to purchase foods with their program benefits.

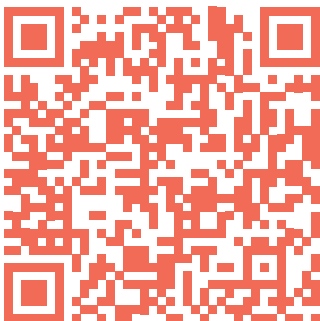
EJ 2.5 Mental Health Services: Encourage the County of Santa Clara Behavioral Health Services to improve city resident access to and awareness of resources for mental health services, substance use services, and suicide prevention.

EJ 2.6 Health and Wellness Education: Encourage the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department to provide health education such as wellness classes, healthy cooking classes, as well as to raise awareness of healthy habits and other current public health issues.

Goal EJ 3 To reduce noise and air pollution impacts in residential areas.

Goal EJ 4 To encourage the growth and development of retail, office, service, and entertainment uses in Gilroy to provide jobs, support City services, and make Gilroy an attractive place to live.

Scan here to read
BFI's Research Report
"Planning for Food Justice"



Scan here to read
the City of Gilroy's
EJ Element



Scan here for info
on Gilroy's
Planning Commission

